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ON THE COVER

Every culture is many cultures. Explore how the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Etruscans, and Romans influenced one another in ***Ancient Mediterranean Cultures in Contact****. (See page 10.)*

The Field Museum

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ADAM FERGUSON

The Field Museum's new Negaunee Collections Manager of Mammals, Adam Ferguson, poses with a genet, a small African carnivore.

Read more about Adam's research on page 14.

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dear **member,**

What was life like millions of years ago before humans roamed the planet? This question has fired imaginations for generations. Field Museum scientists have sought answers through excavations and research, adding to our knowledge of ancient life and sharing their findings with colleagues and the public alike.

Since its founding nearly 125 years ago, the Museum has taken this knowledge and mounted public exhibitions of dinosaurs and other antediluvian creatures, inspiring visitors with images of past epochs. The Field's latest temporary exhibition, *Jurassic World*, follows in this tradition. The show's animatronic dinosaurs are an incredible way to spark imaginations and stimulate learning about evolution, extinction, and the history of biodiversity.



GN92244_059BD / JOHN WEINSTEIN

Jurassic World is the latest effort in the Museum's long-term goal to provide visitors with the best dinosaur experience in the world. To further accomplish this, long-time Museum member and friend Kenneth C. Griffin of Citadel LLC has made a generous gift that will significantly enhance dinosaur exhibitions, scientific research, and education programs at The Field Museum.

Ken's gift will help support scientific enhancements to SUE the *T. rex* as well as *Evolving Planet*, arguably the best exhibition on evolution anywhere. His gift will also bring improvements to Stanley Field Hall and fund the Museum's groundbreaking excavations and research on Antarctic dinosaurs, culminating in a new exhibition in Summer 2018.

On behalf of the Museum, I extend our sincere appreciation to Ken for his generous support. Donors like him—and members like you—make The Field Museum unique among scientific institutions. Thank you.

RICHARD W. LARIVIERE, PHD

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Field Favorites: MEMBER EDITION

In The Field **polled a few of our long-time members about their favorite Museum objects. Here are their answers, including the stories of why these objects continue to engage them.**



Z94418_04D / JOHN WEINSTEIN

ROCKY WIRTZ

Field Museum Trustee and Chairman of the Chicago Blackhawks

Favorite specimen: "Bushman" Lowland Gorilla, FMNH 72805

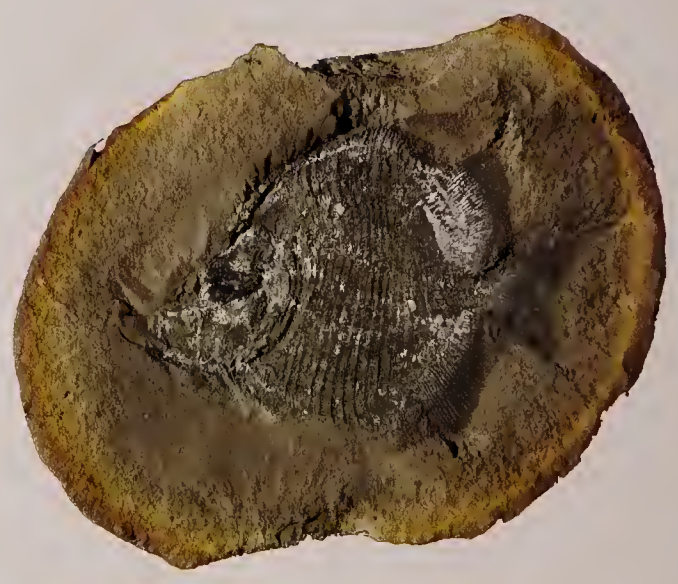
When I was a child, I often visited the Lincoln Park Zoo with my family to see the gorillas. They were fascinating. As I got older and visited The Field Museum, Bushman stands out in my memory as something I had to see on every visit. On a recent trip to the Museum, I made it a point to see Bushman—I put my hand up to the cast of his, as I have done many times before. Recently cleaned and relocated to the Museum's east entryway, Bushman's display looks better than ever. School children arriving on field trips can get up close and learn why he is so special to the people of Chicago.

JAMES & SANDRA PETRZILKA

Field Loyalty Club (Members since 1991)

Favorite Specimen: *Platysomus circularis*, PF7333

Our favorite specimen on display is a tiny fossil fish, which we found more than 45 years ago in Braidwood, Illinois, and subsequently donated to the Museum. The late Eugene Richardson, PhD, (then curator of fossil invertebrates) identified the fossil as *Platysomus circularis*, or "flat-bodied round fish." Dr. Richardson was really excited, and so were we. The little 300 million-year-old fish was perfect, with every detail clear. We resigned ourselves to never seeing our discovery again. But imagine our surprise—and delight—when *Evolving Planet* opened, and we found our little fish on display. Thanks to The Field Museum, we've been lucky enough to discover *Platysomus circularis* twice!



JACK WITTRY



Margarinotus kurdistanus

CRYSTAL MAIER

PATRICIA KOSMERL

Founders Council (Donor since 2003)

Favorite specimens: Beetles from the Thérond Collection

My mother, Suzanne Kosmerl, always told me her cousin, the French entomologist Jean Thérond (1899–1987) sent collections of his insects (mostly beetles) to The Field Museum. Thérond lived in Nîmes in the south of France. During WWII, when the Germans were approaching Paris (which is where my mother grew up), she and her family fled to Nîmes to stay with relatives. There, my mother learned her cousin, Thérond, had done research in the Sahara and had sent specimens to The Field. His specialty was Coleoptera or beetles. One article Thérond wrote references "Dermestidae" which makes me think of the flesh-eating beetles in the Museum's zoology prep lab. Our family in France and the U.S. is astounded that Thérond's collection has been discovered in The Field Museum's collection.


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Cultures in Contact

Kate Golembiewski,
PR and Science Communications Specialist

OUR WORLD HAS NEVER FELT SMALLER. A trans-Atlantic journey that once took months to complete can now be made in a few hours; people now communicate across the planet—instantaneously—via video chat instead of waiting weeks for a letter to arrive.

Necklace made of gold, pearls, and gemstones from Italy 3rd-4th century BC



239183 / A115319D_004A / JOHN WEINSTEIN

Though technology has changed the ways we connect with people in far-off places, these long-distance interactions have occurred for thousands of years, linking people from different societies and creating cross-cultural influences.

Opening October 20, The Field Museum's newest special exhibition, *Ancient Mediterranean Cultures in Contact*, shines a spotlight on what happens when societies interact with one another and people exchange ideas. To tell this story, the exhibition uses rarely seen artifacts from the Museum's ancient Egyptian, Roman, Greek, and Etruscan collections.

Showcasing nearly 100 objects from Field Museum collections, *Ancient Mediterranean* includes Etruscan gold jewelry, a mummy from Egypt, and a bronze bathtub from Pompeii. But as Associate Curator Bill Parkinson, PhD, explained, the objects are only part of the story.

"We have incredible, gorgeous artifacts, but what's really compelling are the connections they represent," said Parkinson. "The mummy is not just a mummy; it's a mummy from Egypt during the Roman period when cultural affiliations were very flexible. The Etruscan jewelry is decorated with Egyptian scarabs, a status symbol showing that the wearer was worldly and had prestige and power."

Greek-inspired vase from Apulia 4th century BC



24447 / A115309D_002A / WEINSTEIN

"Every object tells a bigger story, whether about immigration, assimilation, or connection," said Emily Parr, the exhibition's project manager. "*Ancient Mediterranean* shows what happens when people from different cultures interact: people move, things move, and ideas move."

Ancient coinage provides an example of the economic and cultural exchanges that took place during this period. After Alexander the Great conquered Egypt in 323 BC, one of his generals, Ptolemy I, became ruler of Egypt and minted his own currency in the Greek tradition [pictured on page 12, top left]. But despite its Greek appearance, Ptolemy's coin was used only in Egypt. The ruler required all foreign currency to be exchanged at the border for his Greek-looking Egyptian coinage.



182686 / A115308D_009B / JOHN WEINSTEIN

Ptolemaic coin from Egypt 323-285 BC



182686 / A115308D_009B / JOHN WEINSTEIN

Greek-inspired plate from Apulia 4th century BC

The exhibition is noteworthy not just for the connections it makes between different ancient societies, but also for the way it reveals parallels between the ancient world and the world we live in today.

"When you watch the news, you see clips of refugees, and you hear about immigration," said Parkinson. "These are all concerns that people had thousands of years ago, too. Humans have been interacting with other groups from the beginning, so we're experienced at it."

"*Ancient Mediterranean* helps us see both the past and the present in a new light," said Parr. "It's helpful, and important, to have a bigger picture of where our society fits within world history."



A115313D_009A / A115315D_003A / A115317D_003A / JOHN WEINSTEIN

Glass from the Roman Empire 1st–4th centuries BC

The Field Museum puts a unique spin on the subject of cultural connections and influences. "In addition to being a natural history museum," said Parkinson, "we are also an anthropology museum. It's about people and what makes us human." ITF



CHERI EISENBERG

On Saturday, October 21, the Women's Board will host The Field Museum's annual fundraising gala. The event, chaired by Karen Gray-Krehbiel, celebrates the opening of *Ancient Mediterranean Cultures in Contact.*

The Museum will honor Wilbur H. Gantz III with the **Marshall Field V Distinguished Service Award** in recognition of his exemplary leadership and philanthropy. The evening will include a reception, seated dinner, and dancing with music by Alex Donner & His Orchestra.

The gala raises more than $2 million to support the Museum's research, conservation, and education programs.

For sponsorship, table, and ticket information, visit **pjhchicago.com/event/thefieldmuseum**

Member benefits:

Admission to *Ancient Mediterranean Cultures in Contact* is FREE to members and donors. Member preview days are Wednesday, October 18, and Thursday, October 19, during regular Museum hours. No reservations needed.

Ancient Mediterranean Cultures in Contact was organized by The Field Museum and will run from October 20, 2017 through April 29, 2018.

An Early Dinosaur "Cousin"



MUSEO ARGENTINO DE CIENCIAS NATURALES "BERNARDINO RIVADAVIA" (BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA) / GABRIEL LIO.

Teleocrater rhadinus

Kate Golembiewski, PR and Science Communications Specialist

WHAT DID THE EARLIEST RELATIVES OF DINOSAURS LOOK LIKE? A RECENTLY DESCRIBED SPECIES—THE OLDEST KNOWN "COUSIN" OF THE DINOSAURS—IS SURPRISING SCIENTISTS WITH ITS PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS. The six-foot-long extinct carnivore, called *Teleocrater rhadinus*, shared some unexpected traits with crocodiles and alligators.



MUSEO ARGENTINO DE CIENCIAS NATURALES "BERNARDINO RIVADAVIA" (BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA) / GABRIEL LIO.

"*Teleocrater* has croc-like features that are causing us to completely reassess what we thought about the earliest stages of dinosaur evolution," said Ken Angielczyk, PhD, The Field Museum's associate curator of fossil mammals and an author of an article in *Nature* describing the species. "Early dinosaur relatives were pretty profoundly not dinosaur-like."

All dinosaurs are archosaurs, a group that consists of dinos, birds, pterosaurs, and crocodilians. But about 250 million years ago, the archosaurs split into two groups: a crocodile-like group—including species of alligators and crocs alive today—and a bird-like group that evolved into dinosaurs, pterosaurs, and birds.

Teleocrater probably looked more like a monitor lizard than a dinosaur. Six to ten feet in length, and weighing between twenty and sixty-five pounds, the animal stood about two feet tall at the hip. And while some of its features—such as the jaw muscle attachments at the back of its skull—clearly put it in the bird-like camp with dinos, it also had much in common with its more distant crocodilian cousins. Most notably, its ankle joints could rotate from side to side as well as flex up and down. This gave *Teleocrater* a more splayed, crocodile-like gait rather than an ostrich-like trot.

First identified in the 1950s using fossils collected in the 1930s, *Teleocrater's* place on the Tree of Life remained largely a mystery until Angielczyk and his colleagues discovered more specimens on a recent dig in Tanzania.

"We recovered fossils that we thought might be from *Teleocrater*, but it wasn't until we were back in the lab that we realized we found something really amazing," said Angielczyk. "Scientists generally don't love the term 'missing link,' but that's kind of what *Teleocrater* is: a missing link between dinosaurs and the common ancestor they share with crocodiles." ITF

Want to learn more about *Teleocrater rhadinus*?

Read "The earliest bird-line archosaurs and the assembly of the dinosaur body plan" at Nature.com.

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ADAM FERUGUSON

ANSWERING SOME STINKY QUESTIONS



ADAM FERUGUSON

An Interview with Adam Ferguson

Interviewed by Catie Boehmer, Annual Giving Manager

THE FIELD MUSEUM WELCOMES ADAM FERGUSON, PHD, AS THE NEW NEGAUNEE COLLECTIONS MANAGER OF MAMMALS. Adam is an evolutionary ecologist with interests in small-to-medium-sized carnivores, including their ecology, geographic distribution, and evolutionary history. Recently, he has explored the role of Ice Age climate change in the evolution of the western spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*), known for its demure stature and adorable hand-standing prowess.

ITF: HOW DID YOU END UP HERE?

It can all be traced back to one man: Dr. Bob Dowler, head curator of the natural history collections at Angelo State University in Texas, where I went to college. Bob showed me the light; he introduced me to specimen-based research and taught me about museum science. Up to that point, I'd done nothing but ecology.

ITF: WHY SKUNKS?

I've always been fascinated with things that have to kill to make a living, especially mustelids (small carnivorous mammals including weasels, badgers, otters, ferrets, and wolverines). They can only survive by eating other animals. I'd always wanted to study the long-tailed weasel, but they're not common in Texas, so Bob asked, "Have you ever thought about skunks?"

So I started researching skunks and realized we know practically nothing about several of the species! I just fell in love with them. They're fascinating, yet we know so little about them. I like shedding light on the underdogs.

ITF: WHAT CAN DEBUNK SKUNKS' BAD RAP?

Skunks are cool! They're super charismatic animals, and they serve important functions that affect us: they eat insects and rodents that are agricultural pests.

ITF: WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

The Field Museum has some amazing holdings of small carnivores, especially Latin and South American species. The type specimen of *Mustela felipei*—the Felipe's Weasel, the least-known small carnivore in South America, restricted to the highlands of Columbia and Ecuador—is here. Part of my goal is to be able to take advantage of these collections and do some comparative studies. There are still a lot of questions to be answered about skunks!



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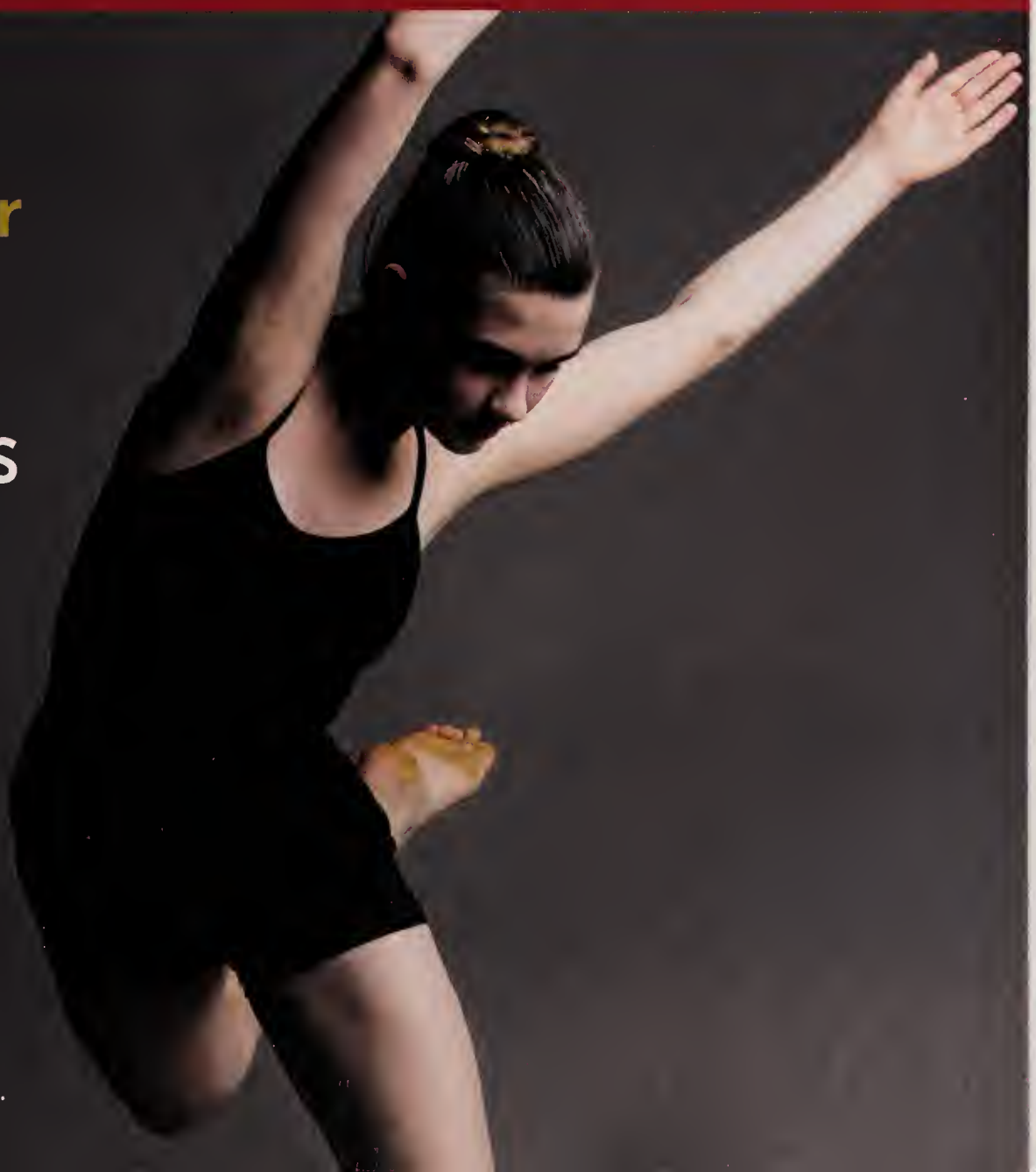
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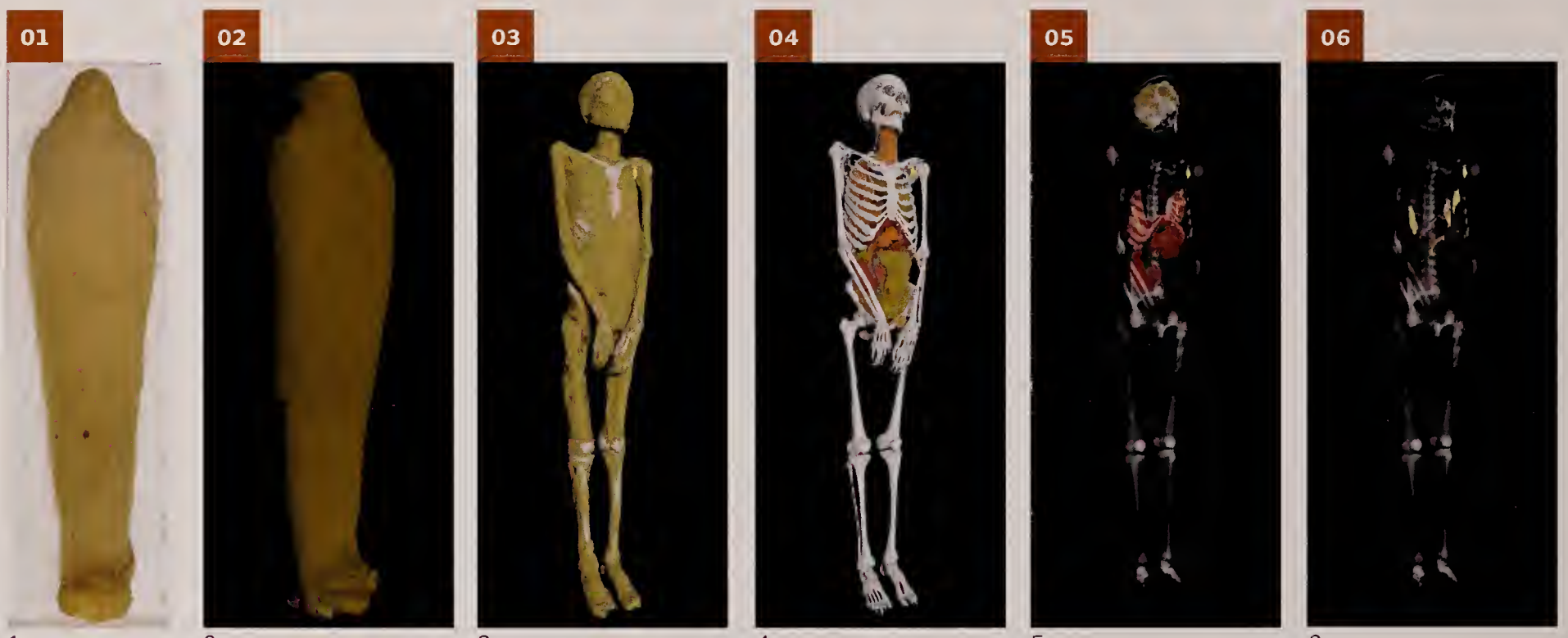
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Top: Photo by Quinn B Wharton. Bottom: Photo by Todd Rosenberg.

Revealing What's Underneath SCANNING AN

MUMMIES ARE ENIGMATIC OBJECTS. WRAPPED FOR ETERNITY, THEY HIDE THEIR SECRETS UNDER MANY LAYERS OF FABRIC. The temptation to unwrap them—and see what lies underneath—is strong. But this urge has been largely resisted at The Field Museum, which has one of the largest collections of Egyptian mummies anywhere. Museum scientists used CT scanning to look inside a few mummies without damaging them. The analysis of the scans forms the basis of the Museum's successful touring exhibition, *Mummies*. Currently on display in New York, the exhibition will open at The Field Museum on March 16, 2018, as part of the institution's 125th anniversary.



KATARINA KASPARI AND JP BROWN

01 This cloth covering you see here is a burial shroud, which is not usually present in museum specimens. Mummy shrouds are often removed by researchers to expose the linen wrappings underneath, but in this mummy the shroud is intact.

02 The wrappings hide the body, but using CT scanning we can look underneath the wrappings without doing any damage to the mummy. CT scanning uses x-rays, which don't see color. The colors of these renderings were chosen to help highlight the different features seen in the scans.

03 Why are this mummy's hands placed over his groin? While mummies from the Ptolemaic Period (332–30 BC) often had their arms crossed over their chests, most mummies from this earlier period (the 25th Dynasty, around 700 BC) were buried with their arms down.

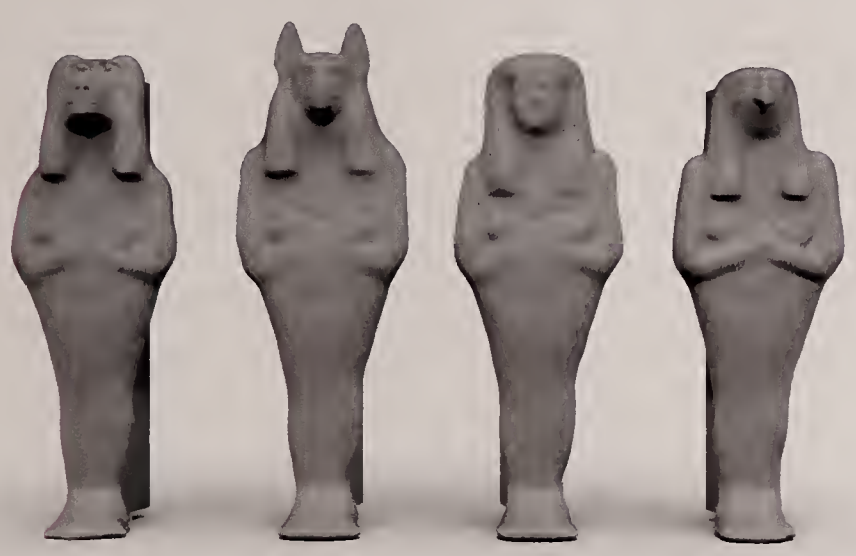
04 In this period, mummies' abdomens were padded to give them a more natural appearance, since the drying process shriveled them up. This mummy's skull is also stuffed with cloth. We think it was put in through the nose.

J.P. Brown, Regenstein Conservator for Pacific Anthropology

EGYPTIAN MUMMY

05 Instead of having their organs put in canopic jars, mummies in this period often had their organs removed, dried in natron salts, wrapped in linen, and then put back into the body. One of the problems for researchers is to tell exactly which organs were put back into the body.

06 In this mummy, wax figurines of the four Sons of Horus were bound into the organ packets. Each figurine, with their distinctive heads, was thought to protect one of the internal organs (lungs, stomach, liver, and intestines) removed from the body during mummification. We can use the figurines to identify which organ packet is which.



We have digitally reconstructed the wax figurines from the CT scans: Hapi, the baboon-headed guardian protects the lungs; Daumutef, the jackal-headed son of Horus, looked after the stomach; Imesty, Horus's human-headed son, protected the liver; and hawk-headed Qebehsenuef, guarded the intestines and refreshed the deceased with a shower of cool water.

SAVE THE DATE: MUMMIES

For thousands of years, peoples around the world practiced mummification as a way of preserving and honoring their dead. The exhibition, *Mummies*, brings you face to face with some of these ancient individuals and reveals how scientists are using modern technology to glean stunning details about their cultures. Discover when, how, and why ancient Egyptians and Peruvians were mummified and find out who they were in life. This show features an up-close look at rarely exhibited mummies as well as interactive touch tables, rare artifacts, and cutting-edge imaging.

See *Mummies* when it opens at The Field Museum on March 16, 2018.

Mummies was organized by The Field Museum.

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Supporter Spotlight: JOYCE CHELBERG



BOB CARL

Interviewed by Cheryl Aponte

JOYCE CHELBERG AND HER HUSBAND BRUCE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTERS OF THE FIELD MUSEUM FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. Recently, Joyce spoke with *In The Field* about her interests in human cultures—both past and present—and the important roles anthropology can play in understanding and appreciating those cultures.

ITF: YOU HELPED BRING RHONDA HOLY BEAR TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FIELD MUSEUM. WHAT SPEAKS TO YOU ABOUT HER ART?

Rhonda is a Lakota artist whose work reflects her culture; it's very spiritual in nature. She grew up on a Lakota Sioux reservation and has always been inspired by her life there. The first time I saw her dolls—which aren't really dolls, as we know them—I knew they were a different type of Native American artwork. They reflect the strength and character of her people.

ITF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR INTEREST IN EGYPT AND YOUR SUPPORT OF 3D IMAGING AT THE MUSEUM?

I've traveled to Egypt many times and have always been interested in Egyptian history—especially mummies. They're fascinating because they can tell so many stories. But sometimes we aren't able to get those stories until the mummies are scanned. When I was approached with the project to scan and create 3D images of the Museum's mummies, I hoped the new technology would reveal more about the lives they once led.
[See pages 16 and 17.]

ITF: YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND BRUCE HAVE TRAVELED TO MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. WHICH ARE YOUR FAVORITES?

Ethiopia and Mali are two African nations that Bruce and I have enjoyed visiting. The Greek and Roman civilizations might be far better known, but there are other cultures—like those in Ethiopia and Mali—that contributed a great deal to world history. Some libraries and universities existed in Africa at a time before most of us realize; there was an active culture of learned people in many African societies.



GN92326_084AD

ITF: CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR TRAVELS TO MUSLIM COUNTRIES?

I have been interested in the Middle East and its history for some time. While visiting Iraq, we were invited into a Kurdish home for tea and had a great conversation about the world and its contradictions. I think it would be helpful if some of our politicians could visit a typical Muslim home to dispel any negative preconceptions and gain a better understanding of one another. Perhaps that understanding would help us to realize that we are all basically one.

ITF: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH HERE AT THE FIELD?

The study of other cultures is very important, especially in today's world where there is so much dissonance and conflict among peoples. It is important to support anthropological research because it helps us understand where we came from and that we are all part of a larger world community.

What Community Curation Looks Like

BEYOND BOLLYWOOD

A vibrant traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution is currently on view at The Field Museum. *Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation* explores the heritage, daily experience, and diverse contributions of Indian immigrants and their descendants in the United States from the 1700s to the present.

Through a series of photo panels, *Beyond Bollywood* tells the story of Indian Americans, from the builders of some of America's earliest railroads and farms to Civil Rights pioneers and technology entrepreneurs. For the Chicago installation, The Field Museum collaborated with the Indo-American Heritage Museum to display twenty objects highlighting the civic, economic, scientific, and artistic contributions of Chicagoland's Indian American community. Founded in 1994, the Indo-American Heritage Museum promotes understanding of the cultures, immigrant histories, and contemporary issues of Americans of Indian origin in the Chicago area.

On display are combat boots worn by US Army Sergeant Uday Singh, who died serving in Iraq in 2003, and the Nobel Prize awarded to University of Chicago astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar. A stringed instrument called a *tanpura*—used by Grammy-nominated musician Anjali Ray—appears alongside ankle bells and a woodblock tapped to keep time at Chicago's renowned Indian dance company, Natya Dance Theatre. Visitors will also see the *Bhagavad Gita* that Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi placed his hand upon during his swearing-in ceremony to the US House of Representatives.

Not every object is associated with a famous person. Another display pairs two hats—a Sikh turban and Muslim *topi*—with Jain prayer beads, a Christian crucifix, and an Avesta Parsi prayer book, showing the religious diversity of Indian Americans. Hindu deities appear in a wall calendar from a temple in Aurora, Illinois, listing Hindu holidays as well as American secular ones.

As they walk beneath colorful saris hanging above, visitors to *Beyond Bollywood* experience the vibrancy of Indian American communities—from across the nation and here in Chicagoland. See the exhibit before it closes on January 7, 2018.

Musicians Shrimati Sanjukta Ghosh and Pandit Shankar Ghosh with son Vikram Ghosh in Lagunita, CA, circa 1970.



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Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation was created by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

The exhibition is co-presented in Chicago by The Field Museum and the Indo-American Heritage Museum. This exhibition is generously supported by The Chicago Community Trust.

Then and Now:

BIRDS

Franck Mercurio, Editor



JOHN WEINSTEIN

Cedar Waxwings, American Robins, Yellow Warblers, and Orchid Orioles collected more than 100 years ago.

In 2018, The Field Museum will celebrate: the 125th anniversary of its founding. In recognition of this milestone, *In The Field* is publishing a series of articles exploring the history of the Museum and its collections. Up next: birds, then and now.

FROM THE TIME OF ITS FOUNDING, THE FIELD MUSEUM HAS COLLECTED BIRDS—LOTS OF THEM. Currently, the Museum's ornithology collection contains more than 500,000 specimens—including skins, skeletons, and eggs—from across the globe. More than a repository, the bird collection serves as a vital locus of research at the Museum.



CSZ54014

Field Museum researchers and volunteers in Brazil in 1926.



JOHN BATES

Field Museum researchers and volunteers in Brazil in 2016.

The collection began in 1893 with a gift of 19,000 specimens from the private collection of Charles B. Cory (1857–1921), the Museum's first curator of ornithology. During Cory's tenure, the collection grew, initially through the efforts of a series of assistant curators, many of whom collected bird species here in the Chicago area.

"These older specimens are important," said Shannon Hackett, PhD, the Richard and Jill Chaifetz Associate Curator of Birds. "But today, vibrancy comes from new collections—tissue samples, parasites, and even recordings of vocalizations—in addition to new ways of studying the collections and collaborating with new scientific partners."

Findings from one notable collaboration are currently on display in *Specimens: Unlocking the Secrets of Life*. Field Museum Research Associates Chris Whelan, PhD, and Bill Strausburger worked alongside Associate Curator John Bates, PhD, and Mason Fidino, PhD, of the Lincoln Park Zoo to research the effects of climate change on local bird populations. They compared current data—collected by Whelan and Strausburger in their fieldwork—with observational data gathered by Museum curators more than 100 years ago. The team found that Chicagoland's birds—including Cedar Waxwings, American Robins, Yellow Warblers, and Orchid Orioles—are laying their eggs, on average, a week and a half earlier, almost certainly due to changing weather patterns and warmer temperatures.

"I suspect curators like Cory realized their specimens would be valuable," said Bates. "They just couldn't predict all the questions that might be studied using them in a modern museum."

Added Hackett, "Through these types of projects, we are actively documenting biodiversity here in Chicago and around the globe, with the goal of preserving that diversity and mentoring new generations of scientists."

Visit *Specimens: Unlocking the Secrets of Life*, now on view through January 7, 2018.

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PEGGY MACNAMARA

THE PEREGRINE RETURNS

PEREGRINE FALCONS HAVE THEIR CLAIMS TO FAME. WITH A DIVING SPEED OF MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED MILES PER HOUR, THESE BIRDS OF PREY ARE THE FASTEST ANIMALS ON EARTH—AND IN THE SKY.

In 1951, there were no peregrines left in Illinois, and it looked as if the species would be wiped out entirely in North America. Today, however, peregrines are flourishing.

In her book *The Peregrine Returns*, Mary Hennen, The Field Museum's assistant collections manager in Birds, gives wings to this extraordinary conservation success story. Hennen uses her Chicago Peregrine Program as a case study of the falcon's journey, from devastating decline to amazing recovery. Along the way, the book explains how the urban landscape played an essential role in enabling peregrines to return to the wild—and how people are now learning to live in close proximity to these captivating raptors.

The Field Museum is exhibiting this story as told through the artwork of Peggy Macnamara, the Museum's artist-in-residence who illustrated Hennen's book, and a slideshow of photographs by Stephanie Ware, Field research assistant, documenting Chicago's peregrine falcons. Also on display are peregrine eggs collected since the 19th century, showing eggs collected before, during, and after the DDT crisis, an environmental catastrophe of the mid-20th century that caused a thinning of eggshells, and endangered the survival of these birds.



PEGGY MACNAMARA

Don't forget to stop by the Grainger Science Hub and the Abbott Hall of Conservation: *Restoring Earth* to discover more information on peregrines!

The Peregrine Returns: The Art and Architecture of an Urban Raptor Recovery
runs through June 24, 2018, in the Museum's T. Kimball and Nancy N. Brooker Gallery.

The Peregrine Returns was organized by The Field Museum.



EDWIN J. MILLER

Redefining Beauty, CONSERVING NATURE

Franck Mercurio, Editor

Mussels, such as the purple wartyback (Cyclonaias tuberculata), are vital to freshwater ecosystems.

WHY DO THE PLIGHTS OF MONARCH BUTTERFLIES, WHOOPING CRANES, AND BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS GARNER MUCH MORE ATTENTION THAN THOSE OF SHEEPNOSE MUSSELS, WOOLY MILKWEEDS, AND MUDPUPPY SALAMANDERS?

The Field Museum's Robb Telfer and Emily Grasilie posed this question to 1,475 attendees at the Wild Things* conference in Chicago earlier this year. The duo challenged their audience to redefine notions of beauty in the natural world, embracing a wider range of organisms—many of which "get no respect."

Using humor to make their point, Telfer and Graslie presented three kinds of "ugly things" that, in their opinion, need more positive PR: ugly faces (turkey vultures!), ugly names (purple wartyback mussels!), and ugly behaviors (dung-eating beetles!) Their argument: our "ugly perceptions" keep us from appreciating many less-than-glamorous species and the key roles they play within ecosystems.

"Humans have invented the entire concept of ugliness," said Telfer, the Keller Science Action Center's Calumet Outreach Coordinator. "We've created a place where we can dump all that we don't understand, all that we fear, and every creature that we're not comfortable with."



ALICIA BEATTIE

Wolf Lake, straddling the Illinois/Indiana border, is home to this mudpuppy salamander (Necturus maculosus).

Case in point: freshwater mussels. According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, mussels may be the most endangered group of animals in North America. Of the eighty mussel species native to Illinois, more than half are currently threatened, endangered, extirpated, or extinct. To be sure, mussels aren't the most charismatic of creatures. Yet their ability to filter water in streams, rivers, and lakes makes them vital to the health of freshwater habitats.

"Humans are great inventors. We've invented the field of ecology as a way to translate the millions of verbal and nonverbal languages that all organisms speak," said Graslie, the Museum's Chief Curiosity Correspondent. "Humans learn these languages so we can protect and celebrate these species—the beautiful and the 'ugly'—with thoughtful precision."

Learning more about the behaviors and roles of nature's less-charismatic species can lead to empathy, which in turn leads to action—actions that can help preserve all the Earth's species—including our own.

* Recognized as one of the nation's largest networks of people engaged with nature, Wild Things is devoted to protecting Chicago area natural habitats and wildlife.



JENNIFER WATLING / EDISON CAETANO



JENNIFER WATLING / EDISON CAETANO

The Impact of Ancient Peoples on the Amazon

Franck Mercurio, Editor with Nigel Pitman, PhD, Mellon Senior Conservation Ecologist

IN OUR COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION, WE OFTEN ENVISION THE AMAZON AS A VAST GREEN WILDERNESS, UNTOUCHED BY PEOPLE. But that vision is now being challenged in the scientific literature. New research suggests humans have been shaping the composition of Amazonian forests for millennia.

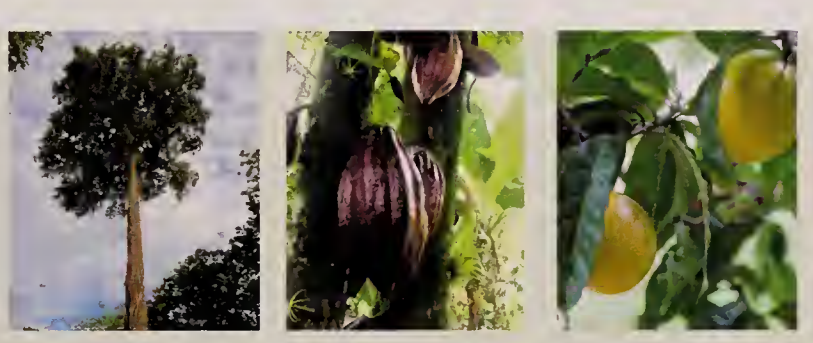
Of course, the Amazon Biome (composed of the Amazon River basin and parts of the adjacent Guiana Shield) *is* a vast green wilderness, harboring hundreds of thousands of plant species. Researchers have long assumed that environmental and ecological factors—such as drought, soil richness, seed dispersal, and species competition—largely determine which Amazonian species occur where, and in what abundance. As it turns out, the same geographical patterns provide a useful tool for testing a new explanation: people.

The Field Museum's Mellon Senior Conservation Ecologist, Nigel Pitman, PhD, recently contributed to a study published in *Science* that compared the distribution of domesticated trees in the Amazon with the distribution of archaeological sites—and he and his colleagues found a connection. Their discovery suggests that indigenous peoples in pre-Columbian times relied so completely on Amazonian species that their historical use can still be detected centuries later, even in what now looks like pristine wilderness.

The full extent of human historical impact on Amazonian biogeography is still a point of debate among scientists. But a growing body of evidence suggests that before AD 1500 the Amazon supported much larger populations than previously believed—perhaps hundreds of thousands—living in towns surrounded by rich orchards of domesticated plants. Many of those towns have long since disappeared, but their orchards have not.

In areas of the Amazon lacking archaeological sites, concentrations of domesticated trees might signal the likely locations of yet-to-be-discovered human habitation sites. Excavating these sites should provide more insights and contribute to our knowledge of how people interacted with—and altered—the Amazon Biome long before the arrival of Europeans.

Want to learn more? See Levis et al., "Persistent effects of pre-Columbian plant domestication on Amazonian forest composition in *Science*" (March 2017) or online at science.sciencemag.org.



Brazil nut (Bertholletia excelsa)
Cacao (Theobroma cacao)
Abiu (Pouteria caimito)

The research team, led by Brazilian scientist Carolina Levis, identified 85 species of domesticated trees within more than 1,000 forest plots, including some set up during Field Museum rapid inventories in Peru. Included are many familiar species like Brazil nut (*Bertholletia excelsa*) and cacao (*Theobroma cacao*). Others are better known in South America, like Amazon grape (*Pourouma cecropiifolia*) and the abiu fruit (*Pouteria caimito*).

Major Support of Andes-Amazon Program: The Boeing Initiative for Conservation and Community at The Field Museum, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY



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October 4-5
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OCTOBER IS MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH!

Field Museum members help support many different research, conservation, and collection efforts, including the care of our growing collection of more than 30 million specimens and objects. We hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate your support during Member Appreciation Month this October.

There will be exclusive perks for members the entire month including:

- *Ancient Mediterranean Cultures in Contact* preview days: Wednesday, October 18, and Thursday, October 19, during regular Museum hours. No reservations needed.
- Daily drawings for a chance to win *Jurassic World: The Exhibition* tickets, 3D movie tickets, Adopt a Dino packages, and more!
- Guided tours of our permanent exhibitions, led by Field Museum Docents.
- Fall Family Breakfast, exclusively for members—Saturday, October 14, 9:30–11am—See details below.
- Double discount days in Field Museum stores—Tuesday, October 4 and Wednesday, October 5

Check fieldmuseum.org/memberevents for a full list of all the perks we will have...exclusively for members!

FALL FAMILY BREAKFAST

Join us for a Fall celebration and enjoy a buffet breakfast in Rice Hall, home of the world-famous Lions of Tsavo! You can also make crafts and learn about some of the spooky objects in our collections as we prepare for Halloween.

Saturday / October 14 / 9:30am–11am
$35 member adult / $25 member child (ages 3-11)

Space is limited and advanced tickets are required. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, September 19.
To purchase tickets or ask questions, call 312.665.7705. All tickets to this event are non-refundable.

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FIELD GIVING DAY

Everyday, The Field Museum encourages curious minds to look closer at our world. We invite hundreds of thousands of visitors to stare down SUE, the largest *T. Rex* ever discovered; travel back in time inside an ancient Egyptian tomb; and experience life underground by "shrinking" to the size of a bug. We educate learners of all ages through field trips, internships, virtual programs, and teacher training. And we also lead research and conservation efforts across the globe, engaging scientific peers and local communities. In short, The Field Museum shares science.

Now, you, too, can support these initiatives. Save the date for Field Giving Day and SCIENCE IT FORWARD. Make a gift of any size on Wednesday, October 11. Your investment—whether $5 or $2,500—will fuel The Field Museum's pursuit of discoveries and its mission to share science with the world, now and for generations to come. Learn more at fieldmuseum.org/givingday.

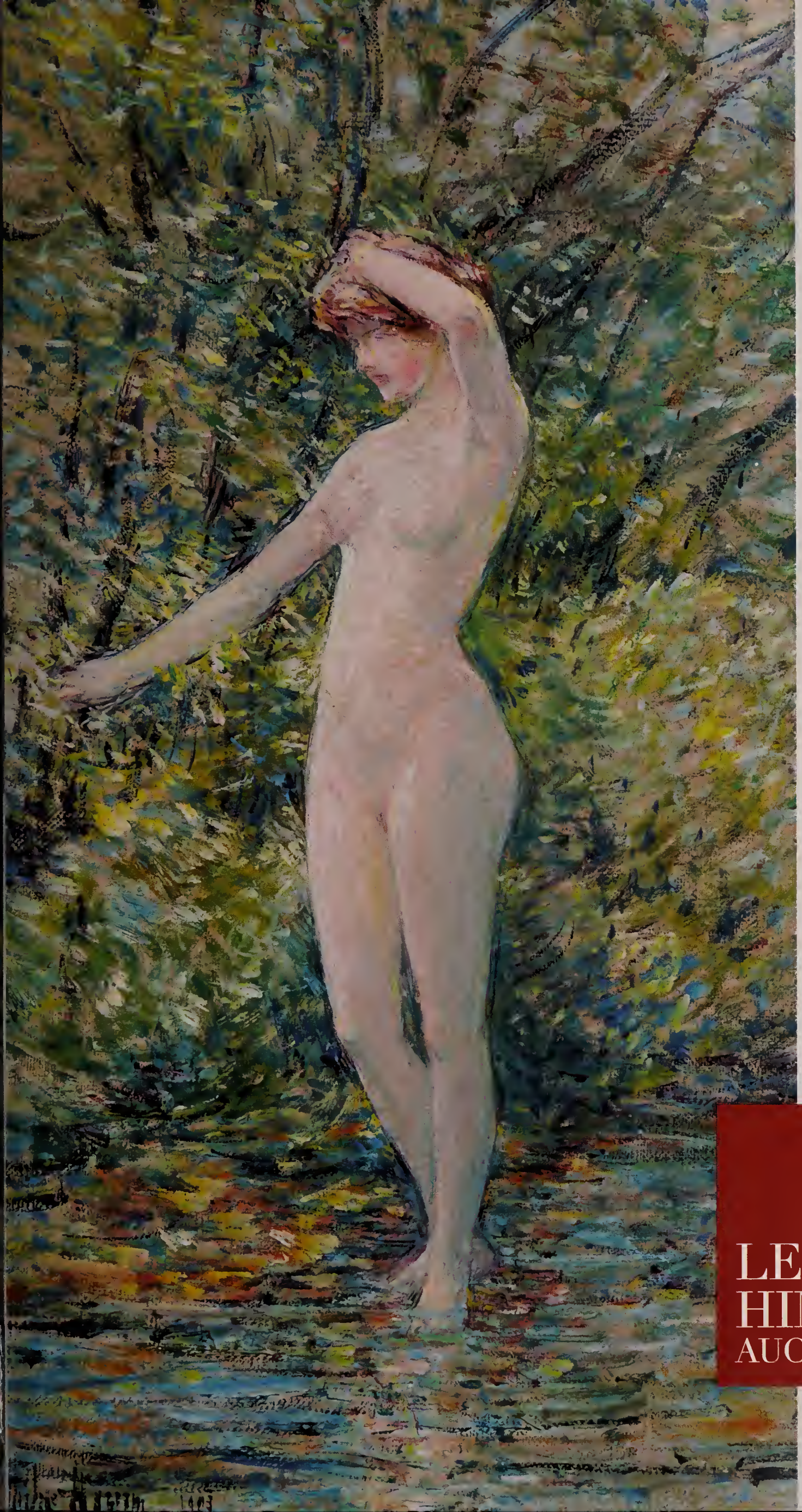
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This list reflects the newest inductees to the Field Loyalty Club—the "Class of 2016"—who became 20-year Museum members and donors between January 1 and December 31, 2016.

If you feel an error has occurred in compiling this list or want more information about the Field Loyalty Club, please contact Mike Wren at 312.665.7137 or mwren@fieldmuseum.org.

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Send Us Your Photos!

The year 2018 marks The Field Museum's 125th birthday—a historic milestone for the institution. We invite you to join in the celebration! Do you have photos of yourself or your family visiting the Museum 10, 30, or 100 years ago? If so, we'd love to see them.

Please send digital copies of your images to **itf@fieldmuseum.org**, and your story could be featured in the magazine next year, as we look back at 125 years of Field Museum memories. (Please scan photos at 300 dpi, which is best for printing.)

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Standing Up for Science!

On April 22, Earth Day, The Field Museum participated in the Chicago chapter of the nationwide "March for Science." More than 200 staff members and Museum affiliates joined an estimated 50,000 Chicagoans to voice their commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, facts, and discovery.

"The March for Science closely aligns with our mission," said Field Museum President Richard Lariviere. "By marching for science, we're supporting curiosity and the pursuit of facts that enable us all to better appreciate our world and make it a place where we can live rich, healthy lives."



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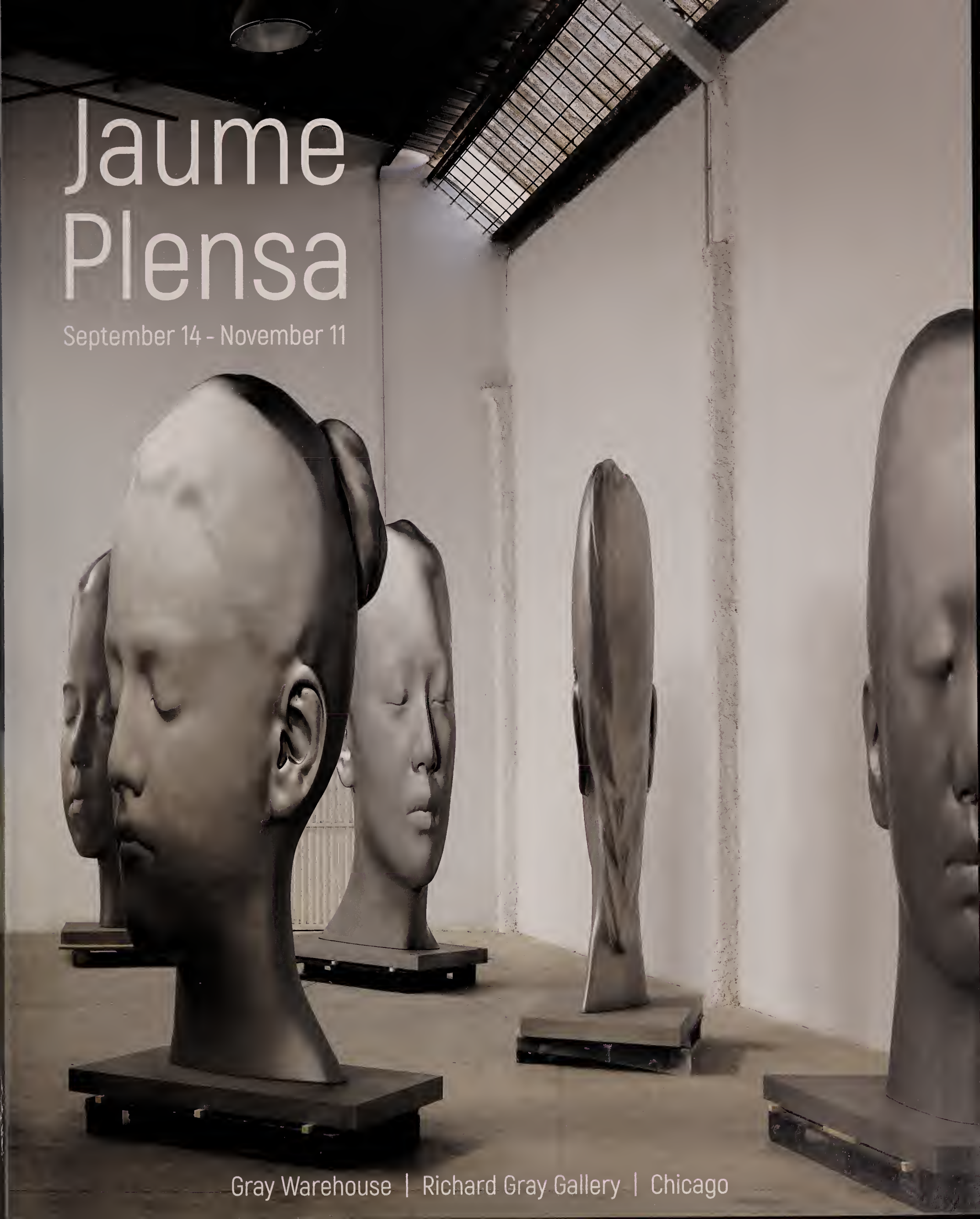
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